

# Council of Docked Breeds



## Protecting the Freedom to Choose

Dogs' tails have been docked ever since selective breeding of dogs for different purposes was first undertaken. Docking is carried out to avoid tail damage in adulthood, to reduce or eliminate hygiene problems in long coated breeds and to maintain breed standards and quality.

Today there are 59 docked breeds that are recognised by the Kennel Club.

Docking must be carried out by a registered veterinary surgeon, and is normally undertaken in the first 24 to 96 hours of life. Long experience indicates that, carried out correctly, the procedure causes no pain or discomfort. Indeed, some puppies docked whilst asleep do not even wake up. There is no evidence that development or weight gain are in any way arrested by docking.

Tens of thousands of happy, well-adjusted dogs are also testimony to the fact that docking causes no problems of balance or communication in adulthood.

Dog breeders and exhibitors love their dogs to bits. To them, the welfare of their dogs is of the utmost importance, now and in the future. Which is why breeders of traditional docked breeds want to retain the right to have their litters lawfully docked by their vet.

**It's called freedom of choice.**

When the Government consulted on animal welfare in 2002

- All 113 dog breed clubs which responded, representing 12,744 members, said docking *should not* be banned
- 1,590 members of the public commented on docking, 80% of whom *opposed a ban*
- More than half of the 33 vets who responded on docking said it should *not be banned*

For more information on docking visit the Council of Docked Breeds at [www.cdb.org](http://www.cdb.org) email [ginette@cdb.org](mailto:ginette@cdb.org) or telephone the CDB on 07000 781262

Or contact the Kennel Club at [www.the-kennel-club.org.uk](http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk) email [pbuckley@the-kennel-club.org.uk](mailto:pbuckley@the-kennel-club.org.uk) or telephone 020 7518 1020



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**SUPPORT THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE  
SUPPORT THE DOCKING OPTION**



**THE KENNEL CLUB**